

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-27, 30, and 33-43 are currently pending in the present application, with Claim 5, 11, 28, 41, and 44-49 being canceled and Claim 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 13, 15-27, 30, 33-36, and 30-43 being amended. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-28, 30-31, and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toriumi (U.S. Patent No. 6,062,868) in view of Hasegawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,570,080). This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

As discussed in the previous communications, the present invention is directed an apparatus and method for converting and delivering musical content information between a client terminal and a server that is connected to the client terminal over a communication network. As also previously discussed, in one aspect of the invention (as recited in Claims 1 7, 13, and 16), content information of a music piece, such as MIDI data, is sent to the server from the client terminal. For instance, as discussed previously, the client terminal may send to the server content information of a right-hand performance of a music piece. The server then converts the received content information by imparting additional content information to the received content information, such as adding the left-hand performance of the same music piece. The server then delivers back to the client terminal the two-hand performance of the music piece.

The Examiner objected to Claims 5 and 11 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Applicants have amended the claim such that the limitations found in Claims 5 have been incorporated into Claim 1 while the limitations found in Claim 11 have been incorporated into Claim 7. Likewise, similar subject matter is now incorporated into the method and program medium claims (Claims 19, 20, 23, and 24) that correspond to Claims 1 and 7.

With respect to Claims 13 and 16 (and corresponding Claims 21, 22, 25, and 26), Claim 13 has been amended to further clarify a feature of the present invention in that the chord progression data is inputted into the client terminal and also transmitted to a server, after which the terminal receives content information from the server that are created on the basis of the chord progression data. Claim 16 is similarly amended to incorporate this feature from the server side. Applicants respectfully submit that this feature is not taught or suggested by either one of the cited references.

With respect to Claims 27 and 30 (and corresponding Claims 33-36), the claims have been amended to further require that parameter input screen information be transmitted/received by a server/client terminal, after which composing parameters are sequentially inputted by the terminal using the input screen and sent to the server, which then automatically creates musical content information based on the composing parameter information received. Applicants respectfully submit that neither one of the cited reference disclose this unique aspect of the present invention.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are patentable over of Toriumi and Hasegawa.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 393032025300.

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